AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims supersedes all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A rubber composition comprising 100 parts by mass of a diene polymer and 20-250 parts by mass of a carbon black as a filler, characterized in that the carbon black has a dibutylphthalate (DBP) absorption number of 40-180 $cm^3/100$ g, a nitrogen adsorption specific surface area (N_2SA) of 40-300 m^2/g, a tint strength (TINT) of 50-150% and a light transmittance of toluene extract of not less than 90% and a relation between the nitrogen adsorption specific surface area and the light transmittance of toluene extract satisfies the following equation (I):

$$0.0283 \times A \times (100\text{-}B) \leq 40 \cdots\cdots \text{(I)}$$

(wherein A is a nitrogen adsorption specific surface area and B is a light transmittance of toluene extract).

2. (Original) A rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein the relation between the nitrogen adsorption specific surface area and the light transmittance of toluene extract satisfies the following equation (II):

$$0.0283 \times A \times (100\text{-}B) \leq 20 \cdots\cdots \text{(II)}$$

(wherein A and B are the same as mentioned above).

3. (Original) A rubber composition according to claim 2, wherein the relation between the nitrogen adsorption specific surface area and the light transmittance of toluene extract satisfies the following equation (III):

$$0.0283 \times A \times (100\text{-}B) \leq 8 \cdots\cdots \text{(III)}$$

(wherein A and B are the same as mentioned above).

4. (Original) A rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein the carbon black has a maximum ultraviolet (UV) absorbance at 330-340 nm of not more than 0.020 and a maximum ultraviolet (UV) absorbance at 260-280 nm of not more than 0.020.

5. (Original) A rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein the carbon black has a weight reduction ratio at 400-530°C of not more than 0.20%.

6. (Original) A rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein the carbon black has an extraction ratio with dichloromethane of not more than 0.12%.

7. (Original) A rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein the carbon black has a hydrogen emitting ratio at 2000°C of not less than 0.15%.

8. (Original) A rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein the carbon black has a hydrogen emitting ratio at 2000°C of not less than 0.18%.

9. (Original) A rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein the carbon black has a hydrogen emitting ratio of not less than 0.23%.

10. (Currently Amended) A tire characterized by using a rubber composition as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1 in a tread.

Please add the following newly presented claims:

11. (New) A tire characterized by using a rubber composition as claimed in claim 2 in a tread.

12. (New) A tire characterized by using a rubber composition as claimed in claim 3 in a tread.

13. (New) A tire characterized by using a rubber composition as claimed in claim 4 in a tread.

14. (New) A tire characterized by using a rubber composition as claimed in claim 5 in a tread.

15. (New) A tire characterized by using a rubber composition as claimed in claim 6 in a tread.

16. (New) A tire characterized by using a rubber composition as claimed in claim 7 in a tread.

17. (New) A tire characterized by using a rubber composition as claimed in claim 8 in a tread.

18. (New) A tire characterized by using a rubber composition as claimed in claim 9 in a tread.